A Snapshot of Ovarian Cancer

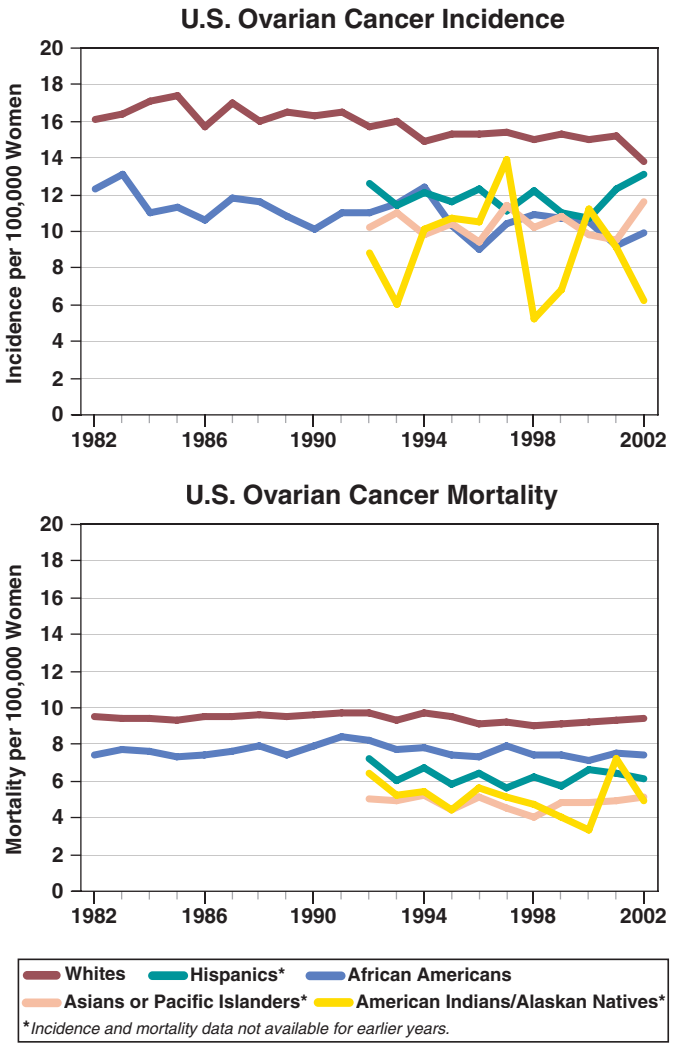
Incidence and Mortality Rate Trends

Ovarian cancer accounts for approximately 4 percent of all women's cancers and is the fourth leading cause of cancer-related death among women in the United States. The incidence rate for ovarian cancer has been slowly declining since the early 1990s. Ovarian cancer has the highest mortality of all cancers of the female reproductive system, which reflects, in part, a lack of early symptoms and proven ovarian cancer screening tests. Thus, ovarian cancer is often diagnosed at an advanced stage, after the cancer has spread beyond the ovary. White women have higher incidence and mortality rates than other racial and ethnic groups.

It is estimated that approximately $2.2 billion* is spent in the United States each year on treatment of ovarian cancer.

*In 2004 dollars, as reported in Brown ML, Riley GF, Schussler N, and Etzioni RD. Estimating health care costs related to cancer treatment from SEER-Medicare data. *Medical Care* 2002 Aug; 40 (8 Suppl): IV-104-17.

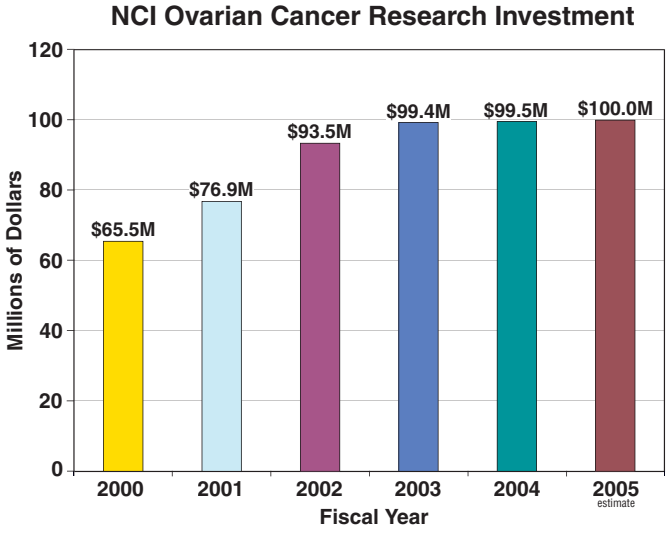
Source for incidence and mortality data: Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program and the National Center for Health Statistics. Additional statistics and charts are available at: http://seer.cancer.gov/



Trends in NCI Funding for Ovarian Cancer Research

The National Cancer Institute's (NCI's) investment in ovarian cancer research has increased from $65.5 million in fiscal year 2000 to an estimated $100.0 million in fiscal year 2005.

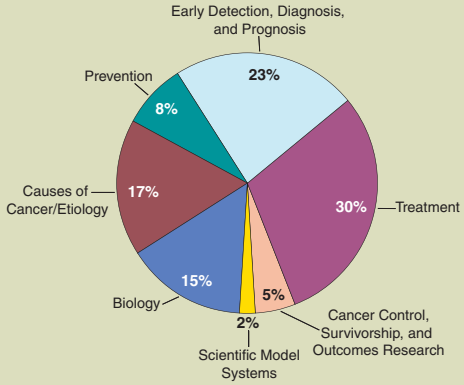
Source: NCI Financial Management Branch
http://www3.cancer.gov/admin/fmb



Examples of NCI Research Initiatives Relevant to Ovarian Cancer

- Five ovarian cancer-specific **Specialized Programs of Research Excellence (SPOREs)** are moving results from the laboratory to the clinical setting. http://spores.nci.nih.gov/current/ovarian/ovarian.html
- The **Risk of Ovarian Cancer Algorithm (ROCA) Study**, a collaboration between Cancer Genetics Network and Ovarian Cancer SPORE investigators, is aimed at finding ovarian cancer early in women at high risk for the disease. http://epi.grants.cancer.gov/ovarian
- NCI's **Early Detection Research Network (EDRN)** and the **NCI/Food and Drug Administration Clinical Proteomics Program** are developing noninvasive screening and early detection tests for ovarian and other cancers. http://www3.cancer.gov/prevention/cbrg/edrn/ and http://ccr.ncifcrf.gov/tech_initiatives/clinical_proteomics.asp
- The **Breast and Ovarian Cancer Family Registries (CFRs)** contain information and specimens contributed by more than 6,000 families with a history of breast and/or ovarian cancer. http://epi.grants.cancer.gov/CFR/about_breast.html
- The **Prostate, Lung, Colorectal, and Ovarian Cancer Screening Trial (PLCO)**, a large-scale clinical trial, is determining whether specific cancer-screening tests are reducing deaths from these cancers. http://www3.cancer.gov/prevention/plco/index.html

NCI Ovarian Cancer Research Portfolio



Percentage of Total Dollars by Scientific Area
Fiscal Year 2004

* Data on training grants are not included in this figure. A description of the relevant research projects can be found at the NCI Cancer Research Portfolio website at http://researchportfolio.cancer.gov.

- The **Director's Challenge: Toward a Molecular Classification of Tumors** includes three projects focused on molecular classification of ovarian cancers based on genetic and molecular alterations in tumors. http://dc.nci.nih.gov
- The **Ovarian Cancer Home Page** directs visitors to up-to-date information on ovarian cancer treatment, prevention, genetics, causes, screening, testing, and other topics. http://www.cancer.gov/ovarian

Selected Opportunities for Advancement of Ovarian Cancer Research

- To improve early detection, define the populations at increased risk, due to either hereditary or environmental factors, for which screening and prevention should be focused.
- Characterize the molecular and cellular pathways in ovarian cancer cells and their microenvironment, with special focus on the effects of the hormonal and immune systems. Use this knowledge to develop and validate molecular targets for prevention, early detection, prognosis, and treatment.
- Conduct research to understand and improve the quality of life for ovarian cancer patients.
- Encourage increased clinical trial participation for patients with ovarian cancer, to more fully evaluate new treatment approaches including chemotherapy, biologic therapy, immunologic therapy, radiation therapy, and hormonal therapy.